

First, the importance of political action committees (PACs) should be reduced. We should cap total PAC contributions to a candidate and reduce the limit on contributions from a single PAC.

Second, Members of Congress should be prohibited from running "leadership PACs," which a few Members, including leaders in both parties, use to gain power and influence over other Members for their own personal agenda.

Third, Congress should limit the flow of "soft money" and "independent" spending into political campaigns. Such spending, which is made by or on behalf of corporations, wealthy individuals, and other organizations, falls outside normal federal campaign finance restrictions, and has been abused by both parties in recent years.

Fourth, reforms should emphasize the importance of grassroots political fundraising over big-ticket donors. The number of large contributions should be capped.

Fifth, Congress should examine ways to encourage voluntary campaign spending limits, such as providing reduced-cost television and radio time to candidates who abide by the limits.

Sixth, Congress must give more authority and support to the Federal Election Commission to crack down on election law violations.

FREEZING CONGRESSIONAL SALARIES

I have consistently voted against congressional pay raises during my time in Congress, including the most recent increase in 1989; and for the last several years, have supported the freeze on Members' salaries.

CUTTING CONGRESSIONAL PENSIONS

The House will likely consider proposals this summer to reduce congressional pension benefits, and ban pensions to Members convicted of crimes. Possible reforms include increasing Members' personal contributions and capping total pension benefits. I voted last year to reduce congressional pensions.

LIMITING THE CONGRESSIONAL FRANK

Since 1992, with my support, the House has cut its mailing budget by more than 70%, banned mass mailings within 90 days of an election, and required all mass mailings to be approved by a bipartisan franking commission to ensure they are substantive and non-partisan.

REFORMING ETHICS PROCESS

I have introduced a bill to create an outside panel to investigate charges of misconduct against Members. The Ethics Committee has increasingly been unable to fully and fairly investigate, prosecute and judge ethics complaints against fellow Members.

REGULARIZING REFORM

In early 1995 the House, with my support, approved several internal House reforms, including proposals to eliminate three committees and cut committee staff by one-third. I have introduced a bill to regularize this type of reform effort by having Congress take up reform proposals every two years, rather than do one-shot, omnibus packages every twenty or thirty years.

CONCLUSION

No issue is more important than the restoration of the confidence of Americans in their government. Americans will forgive government's honest failings if they believe that it cares about their needs and is trying to do a better job. Members of Congress have an obligation to earn the public's respect and trust. Congress has taken some important steps, but other, broader reforms are necessary if Congress is to be the truly representative body the people deserve and the nation's founders intended.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3540) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment, which would prohibit IMET—foreign assistance for military education and training—to the Government of Indonesia.

For over 20 years, international human rights advocates have been calling attention to abuses by the Indonesian Government in its occupation of East Timor. There is evidence that United States military assistance has helped to further the atrocities in East Timor.

Indonesia's armed forces invaded East Timor in 1975, only weeks after East Timor had attained independence from Portugal. Since then, the Indonesian army has carried out a campaign of what amounts to ethnic cleansing against the Timorese through a program of forced migration. Persecution has been particularly harsh against the Christian majority.

More than 200,000 Timorese—out of a total population of 700,000—have been killed directly or by starvation in forced migrations from their villages since the Indonesian invasion.

There are recent reports of a renewed campaign of repression of Catholics in East Timor. These reports include atrocities such as the smashing of statues of the Virgin Mary. The campaign has also been directed personally against the Catholic Bishop of Dili, Bishop Belo. His phones are tapped, his fax machine is monitored, his visitors are watched, and his freedom of movement is restricted. But Bishop Belo persists in his courageous efforts to defend justice, peace, and the preservation of the dignity of his people. Recently, he has set up a church commission to monitor human rights abuses, and a radio station to disseminate information and news.

Mr. Speaker, the people of East Timor comprise a sovereign nation. They differ from most Indonesians in language, religion, ethnicity, history, and culture. They are entitled to independence and freedom. And in the meantime, they are entitled to fundamental human rights including the freedom of religion.

Supporters of expanded IMET for Indonesia argue that since one of the purposes of such aid is to educate the military about human rights, we should provide such aid no matter what they do. But this presumes a willingness on the part of the government to change its dismal record. In the absence of such willingness, the only real effect of expanded IMET is to send a signal to the world that our disapproval of the Indonesian military—which we expressed after the 1991 massacre by cutting off all IMET—has softened. This is the wrong signal at the wrong time. We must not put our

stamp of approval on a regime that massacres children in churchyards and then remains defiant.

I urge a "yes" vote on the amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MAJ. SCOTT BURAN

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional officer of the U.S. Marines in Maj. Scott Buran. This week, Major Buran completes a highly successful tour as the Marine Corps' assistant liaison officer to this body over the past 4 years. It is truly a pleasure for me to recognize a few of his many outstanding achievements.

A native of Vestal, NY, Major Buran became dedicated to the service of this country by following the fine example of his father, Lt. Col. Frank Buran. A retired Marine officer with his own impressive achievements, the elder Buran led marines during the amphibious assault on Iwo Jima during World War II and later during the Korean war. Following in his father's footsteps, Major Buran was commissioned in the Marine Corps on May 15, 1982, upon his graduation from the State University of New York via the Platoon Leaders Course Program.

Upon completion of The Basic School in Quantico, VA, Second Lieutenant Buran attended the Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, OK, before reporting for duty with the First Battalion, Eleventh Marines at Camp Pendleton, CA, in August 1983. With 1/11, he served successively as a forward observer, adjutant, and battery executive officer.

In July 1985, First Lieutenant Buran joined Marine Barracks Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines, for duty as a platoon commander and guard officer. Completing a successful 14 months in the Philippines, he returned stateside in the winter of 1986 for his new assignment at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA. Here, newly promoted Captain Buran contributed immeasurably to the process of making marines while serving successively as a platoon, series, and company commander, and finally as the S-3 training officer.

After a 6-month return to school at Fort Sill for the artillery officers advanced course, Captain Buran returned to the Fleet Marine Force in November 1989. Just 4 months later, he deployed with 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines as an artillery battery commander for duty in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Serving with distinction, Captain Buran participated in the liberation of Kuwait City.

Captain Buran arrived at the Capitol in August 1992 for duty as the Marine Corps assistant congressional liaison officer. Soon thereafter, he was advanced to the grade of major. In this capacity he has been instrumental in providing Congress with a working knowledge of the Marine Corps. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Maj. Scott Buran has come to epitomize those qualities that we as a nation have come to expect from our marines—impeccable integrity, moral character, and absolute professionalism.

I had the privilege of traveling with Major Buran to Somalia and to the former Yugoslavia. His superb professionalism, mature

judgement, and tireless effort and enthusiasm made this trip not only possible, but extraordinarily useful as a means of informing the Congress of the situation in these troubled lands. Major Buran consistently exceeds the very high expectations of an officer of the Marines.

Major Buran's personal awards include the Combat Action Ribbon, the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars in lieu of second and third awards, and the Meritorious Service Medal. Mr. Speaker, Maj. Scott Buran has served this Nation with distinction in war and in peace for the last 14 years. As he continues to do so, I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish him, his lovely wife Ann, and their three beautiful children, Elizabeth, Sydney, and Samuel, every success as well as fair winds and following seas.

A COLORADO AVALANCHE IN MIAMI

HON. WAYNE ALLARD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Colorado Avalanche on their Stanley Cup championship. Colorado has had a long and illustrious history with all of its professional sports teams, yet the Avs are the first to bring home the top prize. While it has been almost 14 years since Colorado has had an NHL team, we are now able to appreciate Joe Sakic putting the biscuit in the basket and Patrick Roy's sterling defense in the net.

Coloradans closely associate themselves with the fortunes of our professional sports franchises, but it was the new kid on the block, the Avalanche, who overwhelmed the best team in NHL history, the Detroit Red Wings, for a shot at the NHL's most coveted prize. Marc Crawford and his Avalanche did not disappoint their frenzied fans at home. After hard fought victories in games one and three of the championship series, Uwe Krupp scored the final goal in the third overtime of the fourth game to complete a sweep of the Florida Panthers and bring the hardware home.

Mr. Speaker, since the Colorado Rockies hockey club left for New Jersey in 1982, NHL fans in Colorado have had little to celebrate. I can happily say that NHL hockey has returned to Colorado with a vengeance. With a team this young and talented, we look forward to many more championship seasons from the Colorado Avalanche.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. AARON GIBSON, SR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Rev. Aaron Nathaniel Gibson, Sr., pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Long Branch, N.J. Reverend Gibson was overwhelmingly elected pastor by the members of

the congregation on February 21, 1996, Ash Wednesday, after a 17-year association.

Mr. Speaker, the Second Baptist Church of Long Branch has a long and illustrious history, going back more than a century. In the 1880's, a group of believers in the Baptist faith settled in Long Branch. Finding no church, they met in the home of Mrs. Ellen Hill of Brook Street, with Brother William Bloodsaw as their leader. As the group of worshipers grew too large for the house on Brook Street, the congregation moved to Liberty Hall on Broadway, and, from there, back to Brook Street in the public primary school building, and then on to Layton Hall on Broadway. Brother Bloodsaw was succeeded by Reverend Jones, who was followed by Reverend Jeffries. It was during the tenure of Reverend Jeffries that the present site, 93 Liberty Street, was purchased and a frame building was constructed. The current stone building in which the congregation now worships was built in 1904. The church subsequently purchased a parish home on Liberty Street. The Reverend C.P. Williams was installed as pastor in 1934, and served continuously more than 50 years. During these sometimes difficult years of growth, expansion, and stability, the Second Baptist Church distinguished itself not only for providing its members with spiritual inspiration and sustenance, but also for civic, humanitarian, educational, and community endeavors.

Reverend Gibson, a native of Baltimore, has great experience not only as a minister, but also as an educator, published writer, human resource manager, and Army chaplain. He has studied at Brookdale Community College, El Paso Community College, Newark State College, and the University of Maryland. He has served as an associate minister of Fulton Baptist Church in Baltimore, assistant pastor of a 750-member church in Vogelweh, Germany, and as the director of parish development for the Army Chaplaincy. Reverend Gibson is married to Sheila Alexander, and they have three children: Aaron Nathaniel, Jr., Damon Garrick, and Rachel Renee.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gibson is seeking to lead the people of the Second Baptist Church of Long Branch on a spiritual pilgrimage of being "A Church Led By The Spirit Of God." Given the proud history of Second Baptist, the strong bonds of family and community of its members, and the inspired and devoted leadership of Reverend Gibson, I am confident that this spiritual journey will continue for many years to come.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, 3 months ago we passed the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, better known as the freedom to farm bill. The 1996 farm bill was touted as the best deal for consumers because it removed the Government from the operation of farm programs and opened the sugar market to domestic competition. The cap on raw sugar prices added in this bill breaks faith with this policy. It sabotages the lowest part of the triangle: The grower. Moreover, it hands unlimited profits to the refinery and it opens the doors to foreign sugar. It deliberately wastes the grower for more profits for the refinery.

Under the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Congress eliminated marketing allotments and allowed an additional 1.5 million tons of imported sugar into the domestic market. We also requested America's sugar growers to pay an additional \$288 million in market assessments to help pay for deficit reduction. These changes essentially took Government out of managing the sugar market. By placing a price cap, this amendment repeals the free market principle. The purpose of the cap is to ultimately eliminate our domestic sugar production, drive America's sugar growers out of business and allow foreign subsidized sugar to dominate the U.S. market. Instead of heeding our decision to save the domestic sugar program as evidenced by the defeat of the Miller-Schumer amendment in the farm bill, opponents are now seeking the same result by including a price cap for raw sugar in H.R. 3603.

According to the USDA, the only way to meet the 21.15 price cap is by increasing the amount of imported sugar allowed into the United States, exactly what the mega users want. The lower priced sugar helps the users and the imported sugar helps the refineries. By allowing more imported sugar into the United States, the downward pressure on raw sugar prices will likely result in increased sugar forfeitures with greater costs to the American taxpayer.

Since last November, the price margin between raw and refined sugar has increased significantly. Presently, Dominos refinery is asking 32 cents for its refined sugar, while raw sugar prices are 22 cents—a difference of 10 cents. Refineries are enjoying high margins of profit because beet sugar producers are expected to harvest less yields for the next couple of years. The USDA has predicted that this price difference will remain the same or even increase. This 10 cent difference is on top of the 1 to 2 cent discount that processors already give to many sugar refiners. Judging from these numbers, the only ones to benefit from the price caps are the refineries and the users. It doesn't matter to them if there are no domestic growers left. I rise to warn this Nation of the loss of an important farm product. If these price caps are adopted, many of America's sugar growers will go out of business. In the State of Hawaii, the remaining sugar growers, with the exception of one owned by a refinery, will likely be forced out of business. Sugar continues to be an essential component of Hawaii's economy, surpassed only by tourism and defense. In 1994, the sugar industry generated \$248 million for the State's economy and directly and indirectly employed 6,000 workers. There are 121,000 acres of sugar land in production today. If the price caps on raw sugar become law, our